

The Tax-Payers of the City Interested—An Extravagant Proposition.

We had the opportunity of examining, on yesterday, the draft of a bill drawn by the City Attorney, and to be presented to the Legislature by Representative Thompson. This move seriously affects the interests of the city, and we desire promptly to post the public. This bill authorizes the Mayor and Aldermen to issue eight per cent. bonds to an amount which, together with the outstanding indebtedness of the city, shall not exceed the sum of \$300,000. These bonds are payable in twenty years, with interest payable semi-annually. There is to be no sale of bonds, except at public outcry, and upon notice previously given. There is to be a registry of city bonds, old and new. A special tax is to be raised to pay the interest on all the bonds. The proceeds of the bonds are to be applied to payment of city debts heretofore contracted, or which may hereafter be contracted—the new City Hall, the new market, improvement of streets, extension of water works and other city improvements. There is provision against increase of the debt.

Another section of the bill makes it felony, punishable by fine and imprisonment, for the City Council to issue bonds privately and fraudulently. The tenth section provides for a sinking fund, to be created from rentals of the City Hall, with which to pay the same. The last section repeals all previous Acts in relation to city bonds.

The above, we believe, is an extract of the prominent features of the bill. We must say that we cannot perceive how the interests of the city are to be promoted by this move. \$800,000 to be issued of 8 per cent. bonds. This we deem wholly uncalled for. Let us see how the scheme will stand the test of analysis by examination. The taxable property of the city is estimated at \$5,000,000. At one per cent, this will give us \$50,000. The receipts of the city from the various sources of revenue are about \$35,000. This will give us an annual income of \$85,000. Now the annual interest on \$800,000 eight per cent. bonds would be \$64,000. The current city expenses are about \$36,000 per annum. This would give \$100,000 per annum, to meet which we would have but \$85,000. That is, the city expenses would exceed the receipts by \$15,000. But why issue \$800,000 city bonds? The outstanding debts of the city, we learn, are now about \$325,000. Why low issue \$475,000 eight per cent. bonds, and thus place at the disposal of the City Council so large a sum of money—large, assuming that the bonds will command a good price. Were they to sell at eighty cents on the dollar, the City Council would realize \$640,000. Take from this the \$325,000 now our outstanding debt, and they would have \$315,000 in hand. Now, putting the City Hall at \$100,000, and the market at \$12,000, and letting that amount go, the Council would still have \$203,000 to spend, or pretend to spend, in indefinite city improvements.

We oppose the move, and we invite public attention to the subject. Further, we hold that this grave matter should have been presented to the city first, before being put before the Legislature. There was a rule which made it obligatory upon public bodies to give three months' notice before applying for such authority as this Council is now seeking. We hold, further, that the present Council have forfeited all claims to public confidence. They issued, privately and illegally, \$250,000 seven per cent. bonds. They are charged with authorizing or allowing over-charging in connection with the contracts for the City Hall and the market, to the extent of over \$50,000. And now the Council, representing to a very slight extent the tax-payers of the city, undertake and propose to bind the property of the citizens to the extent of an uncalled-for bond issuance of \$800,000! Why, suppose these bonds bring but forty cents on the dollar. We would get but \$320,000, and we would be saddled with a debt of \$800,000. We leave the matter to the citizens.

Speaker Moves.

We desire to direct public attention to some facts in connection with this partisan's gross partiality and neglect of duty. A member of the House, Mr. D. Kinsler, was killed nearly one year ago, and yet no writ ordering a new election has been issued. The Constitution devolves this duty upon the Speaker, and yet he deliberately neglects to do this duty, though over and over again urged so to do. Does the Speaker fear one Democratic member from Lexington?

Again, Mr. Kuh, an honest Republican member from Beaufort—as represented to us—died last summer. Speaker Moses has ordered no election, we learn, in this case. Is it because he fears that Beaufort may send another honest member?

Yet the Speaker is not always slow. When one Hardy, of Charleston, resigned to give place to Mr. Bowen, the Speaker forthwith issued his writ, and Mr. Bowen now has his seat. Does the legislative majority propose to allow such conduct on the part of the Speaker? Does he hold in his corrupt hands the House? Do the majority unite with the Speaker in his opposition to Democrats and honest Republicans? Let the Speaker look well to his duties. We may yet deem it our duty to unveil his political past, and to tear from his brow the silver veil that now conceals so much that he would not have exposed.

Regard not dreams since they are the images of our hopes and fears.—*Calo.*

The average tax for ten years previous to the war, was but \$431,000. During the year 1860, it was but \$302,000. At that time, the taxable value of the property of the State was \$480,000,000. Now said value is but \$184,000,000.

What, now, are the taxes raised since the war? The Charleston News says that the State and County taxes, as assessed, were as follows: Taxes for 1868, due 1869, \$1,835,105; taxes for 1869, due 1870, \$1,622,658; taxes for 1870, due 1871, \$2,265,047—three years taxes, \$5,722,809. According to this showing, what follows? This, viz: that whilst in three years before the war, \$1,293,000 were raised by taxation on a basis of \$480,000,000—since the war, nearly \$6,000,000 have, in the same time, been raised, or sought to be, on a taxable basis of \$184,000,000—thus showing, as we have before remarked, that whilst the taxable property of the State has been reduced one-third, the taxes have been increased five hundred per cent.

But let us take another view of the matter. We shall now take the Governor's statements—which may or may not be true, even as far as they go. In his estimate, in his message, of the taxes collected and the delinquent taxes, he artfully leaves out of his estimate all the County taxes; and he deceives the public further in respect to the delinquent taxes; for, as we learn, at least three-fourths of the taxes reported delinquent, are afterwards paid and collected. With these corrections, let us consider the Governor's estimates. In 1868, he acknowledged that there were collected \$1,163,053.38; in 1869, \$766,736.08; in 1870, \$1,146,037.06—making \$3,075,826.52. To this, add 3 per cent. for County taxes, viz: \$92,274.79; and also three-fourths of the taxes reported "delinquent," with the 20 per cent. penalty added, (amounting to \$1,137,457.51,) to wit: \$553,092.89, and we have admitted collected by Governor Scott, in three years, \$3,075,826.42; County taxes omitted by Governor Scott, at least \$92,274.79; three-fourths of delinquent taxes afterward collected \$553,092.89—making a total of \$4,021,194.10 raised in 1868—69—70 by taxation. That is, according to Governor Scott's own basis of calculation, over \$4,000,000 have been collected from the people of this State in the last three years.

Let us now see what moneys have further been raised from the sale of bonds. According to the Scott-Parker-Kimpton-Chamberlain showing, Kimpton, the Financial Agent, has received \$9,533,000 of State bonds. We have been told that the agent probably sold these bonds at an average of fifty cents on the dollar. But we will deduct from the bonds in Kimpton's hands the \$700,000 in bonds that he was authorized to sell on the Land Commission account, this will leave \$8,833,000 of State bonds in Kimpton's hands. Assuming that he sold these at fifty cents on the dollar, we have the sum of \$4,416,500, which has passed into Kimpton's hands. Now, add to this the \$4,021,194.10 raised from taxes, and we have \$8,437,694 to be accounted for by the ring. Take from this \$4,000,000 for the expenses of the government for three years, and we still have over \$4,000,000 to be accounted for. This represents the stealage. Now, we ask of the ring this question: If you have not stolen this money, where is it? Where is the people's money? What have you got to show for it?

Our readers will observe that this estimate is based mainly upon the admissions of the accused. By just so much as we have fallen short of the amounts received from taxation, and the amounts realized from the sale of bonds, must the stealage fund be increased. It is likely that when the whole truth comes out, it will be found that we have very much under-stated the sums stolen. And yet, in view of all this monstrous fraud, our people are called intolerant! We affirm that we have been forbearing to a remarkable degree. Upon the face of God's earth, is there a people who have been subjected to such official robbery, and the people poor, just emerged, conquered, out of a gigantic civil war, attended with frightful loss of life and property and liberties. Ah! it is, indeed, hard to be plundered by Scott & Co., and then punished by Grant & Co. And to think that scoundrels and swindlers should so manage their cards as to find protection under the United States flag. We have officers of the United States army, graduates of West Point, and others, keenly alive to the honor of the flag, and sensitive as to their soldierly reputation. How it must wound these gallant hearts to find the flag thus misused! We have, too, men in our midst, honest Republicans. How it must them smart to reflect how, under the cloak of their party, men have stolen and stolen, until Radicalism in South Carolina, as represented by the thieving carpet-baggers and their native allies, has become a burning shame and a disgrace to decency and civilization.

The present number of cardinals is very small, and it is reported from Rome that in a short time fifty—or, as some say, eighty—new bishops will be created, and no doubt one or two cardinals' hats will be distributed.

Saxe says that Vermont is famous for four staples, "men, women, maple sugar and horses. The first are strong, the last are fleet, the second and third are exceedingly sweet, and all are uncommonly hard to beat."

A NEW PAPER AT ROCK HILL, SOUTH CAROLINA.—From the prospectus sent us, we learn that there will be issued soon, from Rock Hill, in York, a new paper, to be known as *The Landmark*. The editor and proprietor will be Johnston Jones, Esq. We can most heartily commend this enterprise. Mr. Jones we know well; and, as a man of fine abilities and high tone, we feel sure that he will give us a paper, in all respects, worthy of public patronage. Let him faithfully and earnestly carry out the principles announced in his prospectus—as we have every reason to believe he will—and his paper will be the means of no little public good. We greet our friend and former pupil heartily, for we know full well that we shall be in full sympathy—co-laborers in a common cause.

"Be just and fear not; Let all the ends thou aim'st at Be thy country's, thy God's and truth's."

Notice.

As chairman of a meeting of citizens, held in response to the circular of Gen. Hampton and others, in relation to a State fund, to be used in behalf of the eminent counsel engaged to defend the men prosecuted under the Enforcement Act of Congress, and to test the constitutional questions involved, the undersigned was authorized to appoint a committee, to consist of two persons for each ward in the city, and for each election precinct in the County.

The following citizens are requested to act as a committee on subscriptions, to report to the chairman:

Ward No. 1.—R. D. Senn, W. Press. Brown.

Ward No. 2.—John Caldwell, J. T. Sloan, Jr.

Ward No. 3.—J. C. Seegers, W. C. Fisher.

Ward No. 4.—Edward Hope, Roland Keenan.

Killiam's—Eli Killiam, John Lorick.

Camp Ground.—J. H. Kinsler, W. P. Bookter.

Gadsden.—Warren Adams, T. B. Weston.

Garner's Ferry.—Samuel G. Henry, J. J. Lucius. JOHN P. THOMAS, Chairman.

CHARLESTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE—EXTRACT.—The Chair stated that the Hon. James Chesnut and A. P. Aldrich were in the city, and suggested the appointment of a committee to wait upon these gentlemen and invite them to address the Chamber. On motion of Mr. Wm. Ravenel, the Chair appointed on that committee Wm. Ravenel, F. J. Porcher and Wm. A. Courtenay, who retired, and after a few minutes, returned with the distinguished guests, who were cordially introduced by the chairman of the committee.

They addressed the Chamber in turn, reviewing the condition of the finances of the State, and giving their opinion as to what remedy should be applied to rectify the evil. They were listened to with the most profound attention.

In addition to the members and these gentlemen, there were present of the Tax-Payers' Convention, the Hon. W. D. Porter, President, and the Hon. Henry Gourdin and Thomas Y. Simons, of the Executive Committee. After a free and frank interchange of opinion, it was, on motion of L. D. DeSaussure, Esq., resolved, that the thanks of the Chamber be extended to the Hon. James Chesnut and A. P. Aldrich, for the able and eloquent addresses delivered, and that a committee of one or more, as may be desired, be appointed by this Chamber to confer and co-operate with the Executive Committee of the Tax-Payers' Convention, in such measures as they may deem essential for the protection of the rights of the people.

Adjourned.

MORE ARRESTS—RELEASES.—The following persons have been arrested in this County since our last report: Major J. W. Trench, B. Dawkins, Mac. Thompson, Govan Black, June Sparks, James Sparks, Joseph Jeffries and Samuel Jeffries. The last named person escaped, to the chagrin of his captors.

We are pleased to see our young friends, D. B. Fant, Percier Fant, Munro Fant, Jason Greer, Albert Ewbank, Wm. Hughes, Jr., and our old friends, W. G. Hughes, Sr., and Wesley Sanders, at liberty again. They were taken before the Commissioner at Spartanburg, on Saturday last, and admitted to bail. Most of these men we know to be innocent of the crime charged against them—that of a riot in the streets of Point, over a year ago, by which S. T. Point was so frightened that he hastily left town. We learn that Point and a man by the name of Ray made the charge, but we cannot see how the United States authorities can have anything to do with it, as it is purely within the jurisdiction of the town authorities.

Many of these arrests and the unwarranted and ungentlemanly searches of private apartments will be investigated at some future day. Although we are Southerners, we are American citizens, and have not lost all our rights. Our hands are in the lion's mouth now, but we or our children will resent the indignities put upon us, so soon as justice shall resume her throne in this country.

[Union Times.]

ESCAPED THE KNIFE, BUT DIED FROM THE EFFECTS OF A FALL.—That the ways of Providence are strange needs no better exemplification than is illustrated in the death of Mrs. Carlotta Sarocco, whose desperate struggle last summer with the colored man Thomas is still fresh in the minds of every person in this city. By almost a miracle, this lady escaped death from the knife, and succeeded in having her would-be murderer sentenced to twenty years in the penitentiary. On the day that Thomas was sentenced, Mrs. Sarocco, in quitting the court house by the door on Lexington street, slipped and fell upon the iron steps, and fractured her skull. She was removed to her home in an insensible condition, and on Monday last died.

[Baltimore American.]

SUDDEN DEATH.—Mr. John Meyer, a prominent merchant of Blackville, and a gentleman highly esteemed by all who knew him, died suddenly on Monday evening, the 27th ult., between 10 and 11 o'clock, of disease of the heart. But a few hours previous to his death, Mr. Meyer seemed in perfect health.

[Barnwell Sentinel.]

By way of increasing the city revenue, they have commenced in Richmond the system of lining baby carriages found on the streets to the tune of \$1, on the ground that they obstruct the side-walks.

LEGISLATIVE PROCEEDINGS.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1871.
SENATE.

Mr. Cardozo introduced a bill to amend an Act relating to the jurisdiction and duties of County Commissioners.

Mr. Smith—A bill to require the circuit solicitors to attend the session of the General Assembly, and to define their duties while so attending.

Mr. Whitmore—Bills requiring County Commissioners to report to the County Commissioners; to amend an Act to alter and renew the charter of the town of Darlington.

Mr. Nash—Bills to repeal an Act to authorize the formation of and to incorporate the Tugaloo and Chatahoochee Railroad Company; to repeal a joint resolution entitled "A joint resolution authorizing the Governor to employ an armed force for the preservation of the peace," were passed.

A bill to repeal a joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution authorizing the Governor to purchase 2,000 stand of arms, of the most improved pattern, with usual complement of ammunition," was passed.

Joint resolution to require the Governor to communicate with the proper authorities of the State of Georgia, with a view to re-adjustment of boundary line between the States of Georgia and South Carolina, and authorizing the appointment of three commissioners, was passed.

A bill to amend the second clause of the 18th section of an Act entitled "An Act to revise, simplify and abridge the rules, practice, pleadings and forms of courts in this State," was passed.

Bills to amend Section 273 of Code of Procedure, and to repeal an Act entitled "An Act to create a debt of the State of South Carolina, to be known as the Sterling Funded Debt, the same, or the proceeds thereof, to be exclusively used in exchange for, or in payment of, the existing debt of said State," were laid on the table.

Message No. 3 of his Excellency the Governor, returning, with his objections, joint resolution to provide for the publication of certain statutes of this State, and journals of the General Assembly, was read over his veto.

Bills to amend and extend the charter of the Planter's and Mechanic's Bank of South Carolina; to incorporate the Young Men's Africanus Debating Club; for the protection of boys and beaus; to incorporate the Wallhalla Hook and Ladder Company, were passed.

A bill to abolish the office of Financial Agent of the State of South Carolina in New York was postponed.

At 3½ P. M., the Senate adjourned until Monday, at 12 M.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.
The House met at 12 M., Speaker Moses in the chair.

The unfinished business from yesterday, being a bill to alter and amend the charter of the town of Georgetown, it was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading.

Mr. Hagood, from the Committee on Charitable Institutions, reported favorably for the incorporation of certain churches and charitable institutions. Laid over.

Mr. Whipper offered a resolution relative to the violation of the charter of the Air-Line Railroad from Charlotte, N. C., to Atlanta, Ga., and to refer the matter to the Attorney-General for examination.

Mr. Byas introduced a bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act in relation to the free common schools."

Mr. Holmes—Bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to incorporate the Trustees of the Walterboro Male Academy."

Mr. Smart—Bill to create a public road from Beaver Bridge, on Beaver Creek, to Ridgeway, in Fairfield.

Mr. S. B. Thompson—Bill to authorize and empower the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Columbia to issue bonds and sell the same.

Mr. Simons—Bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to grant the use of a vacant lot in the town of Columbia to Palmetto Lodge No. 5, I. O. O. F., on certain conditions;" also, a memorial of the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Columbia for the use of the college hall for hospital purposes.

Mr. Frost—Bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act for the relief of prosutors and witnesses in cases not capital."

Mr. Dennis, from the special committee to wait upon the Governor with the resolutions relating to the correspondence upon the subject of the issuing of State bonds, reported that the Governor would report at the earliest moment.

Bill to incorporate the town of Bolton was passed to a third reading; also, bill to amend an Act entitled "An Act to grant, renew and amend the charters of certain towns and villages therein mentioned, commencing with Section No. 36 of said Act, as relates to the town of Wrightsville."

Resolution of Mr. Bowen, requesting report from the Financial Board of the State, was passed.

Bill to amend certain sections of the code of procedure, relating to the Circuit Courts, was recommitted to the Judiciary Committee.

Senate bill to regulate the granting of divorces occupied the attention of the House up to hour of adjournment, when the House adjourned to Monday, at 12 o'clock M.

A lady in Boston, five feet and three inches in height, has hair that trails a quarter of a yard behind her on the floor as she walks. It is seventy-five inches long and jet black.

HOTEL ARRIVALS. December 9.—*Nickerson House*—Hon. B. F. Duane, Charleston; Charles E. Loden, U. S. A.; H. C. L. Miller, Miss J. R. Miller, Yorkville; G. C. Baeot, Winstboro; Joseph Raphael, New Orleans; John B. Carter, Augusta; Mrs. Thos. Crymes, Gainesville; Hon. Jas. L. Orr, South Carolina; W. R. Kline, Chester; Y. W. Kene, Salisbury; D. A. P. Jordan, Greenwood.

Columbia Hotel—John Carroll, L. J. Barber, Blackstocks; C. B. Farmer, Waterboro; W. Dudley, A. L. Tyler, Charleston; A. Kennedy, Tenn.; M. L. Bonham, Edgfield; Jonathan Baker, Charles Daly, Wm. H. Phelps, W. S. Byles, New York; J. G. Loner, Guntown; J. M. Selkirk, Wm. Gurney, Chas. A. Clausen, Charleston; John Crider, Orangeburg; S. R. Adams, Samuel Place, Camden; J. W. Selby, Baltimore; R. W. McCollough, Richmond; W. J. Vereen, W. H. McNair, W. F. Brittain, A. G. Woodroff, Thomas N. Bramlet, John B. Sardy, New York; H. G. H. Henderson, B. F. Bartholow, Baltimore; Simon Fair, Newberry; A. J. Lomis, Dr. Gibson, U. S. A.; H. Pope, Wilmington; John B. Sardy, New York; J. S. Burroughs, Cambridge; W. H. Evans, Charleston; W. D. Hannefin, Charleston; W. H. S. Sweet, Atlanta.

THE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.—SATURDAY, December 9, 1871.—The court met at 11 o'clock A. M., Hon. Hugh L. Bond Presiding Judge, and Hon. George S. Bryan on the Bench.

The Grand Jury returned "true bills" in the case of the United States vs. J. William Avery, James Rufus Bratton, Chambers Brown, Alonzo Brown, Robert Higgins, Rufus Molain, Napoleon Miller, Wm. Johnson, Pinckney Caldwell, Robert Caldwell, Robert Dickson Bigham, John S. Bratton, Harvey Gunning, Bascom Kennedy and Holbrook Good, charged with conspiracy against James Williams, alias "Jim Rainey," and with murder. Also, true bill in the case of the United States vs. Robert Hays Mitchell et al., and the United States vs. Mitchell et al. Mr. Corbin proposed to take up the case of Robert Hays Mitchell et al., and proceeded at once to trial. Mr. Stanberry objected, stating that such action was in accordance with the agreement made between counsel; that the murder case should be called up first, in order that the question upon which the court was divided might be sent up at once to the Supreme Court. It was agreed, after some debate, to take up the murder case first; but inasmuch as the counsel for the defence had not been furnished with a copy of the new indictment, they were allowed until Monday to make necessary preparation.

Mr. Stanberry proposed to employ the time of the court to-day in the discussion of a grave question, arising from the cases disposed of yesterday by a plea of guilty, to wit, whether the prisoners are to be punished for a misdemeanor, as the defense would endeavor to show, or for a felony, as the counsel for the Government contended. The court expressed its desire to hear the argument of counsel on the question.

Mr. Stanberry stated that the defense claimed that the punishment should be fixed according to the provisions of the fourth section of the act of May 31, 1870, entitled "An act to protect the citizens of the United States in the right to vote and for other purposes." While the District Attorney maintained that the sixth section of the same Act was that under which the indictment was laid. In the one case the offence would be punished as a misdemeanor only, with a fine of \$500 and imprisonment not more than a year, while in the other it would be a felony punishable with a fine of \$5,000 and imprisonment for ten years—just ten times as much, with the additional penalty of being deprived of the right to vote or hold any office of profit or trust under the Government.

Mr. Stanberry then read from the Act referred to, showing that the first section related solely to the right of voting; the second provided for the punishment of official misconduct in not allowing persons to qualify themselves, such as registering, &c., and referred, also, solely to the right of suffrage. So the fourth provided against individual hindrance or combination, or confederation to hinder or prevent a citizen in the free exercise of the right of voting; the fifth related to cases of bribery and of threats of discharge from employment, &c., for voting. Each one of these sections, from the first to the fifth, inclusive, refer especially and in explicit words to the right of voting. The sixth, Mr. Stanberry endeavored to show, by the use of the terms "any privileges or immunities" granted or secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States, must refer to other privileges and immunities, and not to the right to vote, which had been specially provided for by the preceding sections, the rule of construction being that whenever a previous Act or section of an Act made special provision for anything, and there was a subsequent enactment or section of the same Act, with a general clause that certainly embraces other things, and might embrace this, by intendment, the special provision be preferred. Again, another well established rule was, that statute must not be construed so as to involve an absurdity. In the present instance, this would inevitably follow, should the right to vote be included in the words "privileges and immunities," used in the sixth section; for then we must assert that Congress had suddenly, and without any assignable reason, changed its mind, and almost before the ink had dried on the fourth section, made that a felony in the sixth, punishable with a fine of \$5,000 and ten years' imprisonment, which, in the fourth, was declared a mere misdemeanor—punishable with \$500 fine and one year's imprisonment.

Again, another rule of construction was, that in penal statutes they must be construed strictly, and not stretched by intendment against the rights of the citizen.

Mr. Stanberry asked the counsel for the Government, if they proposed to make a point of the fact, that in the fourth section the word conspiracy did not occur—combination and confederation being used—while in the sixth the phraseology was somewhat different—the words band and conspiracy appearing?

Mr. Corbin declined to answer, and Mr. Stanberry read from Webster's Dictionary the definition of conspiracy, and of combination, and confederation, showing that as used in the Act, they were synonymous terms.

As for the Act of April 20, 1871, under which the eleven count was laid, Mr. Stanberry maintained that, as it was admitted that the agreement of conspiracy was entered into, and the overt act committed on the 22d of March, twenty-eight days before the passage of the Act, the prisoners in the present case could not be tried under it—conspiracy not being a continuing offence.

At the close of Mr. Stanberry's argument, Mr. Corbin asked to be allowed till Monday to prepare his reply, and the court adjourned till 11 o'clock, on that day.

AN INNOCENT MAN IMPRISONED SEVEN YEARS.—Ignatz Ratky has been released from the penitentiary at Albany after seven years' imprisonment. He was found guilty of the murder of Sigismund Felner, committed in 1861, and sentenced to be hanged. Gov. Fenton commuted the sentence to imprisonment for seven years and two months, and this term has been reduced by the usual allowances for good conduct, and Ratky is now discharged in the regular course of proceedings. The belief that he is entirely innocent of the murder has, meantime, been well established, and he goes forth into the world without the stigma of crime upon him.

Butler says that poverty is only an idea. If so, it must be the much-talked-of "prevalent" idea.

THE RESTORATION OF PARIS.—The municipal authorities of the French metropolis are most energetic in their efforts to restore Paris in some measure to its former splendor. An army of 25,000 masons is at work under the direction of competent architects, and the hope may be now entertained that the unrivaled city on the Seine will rise like a Phoenix from its ashes at a not too distant period. Recent files of Paris papers, giving many details on the subject, estimate the time when the work of restoration will be finished at about three years, although many of the magnificent edifices destroyed by the vandals of the Commune present already quite a respectable appearance, which reminds the beholder, in some measure, of the days of their glory. Many of the old works of art, that were deemed lost forever, have since been found intact under the cinders, and it is good proof of the solidity of the building materials used, that a great many of the old and blackened walls have been found still sound and fit for use. If Paris had been built like Chicago, not a stone would have been left standing, and the loss of life would have been fearful. As it was, the solid walls kept the fire flood in proper bounds, and thus prevented a disaster in comparison to which the burning of Chicago would have been a mere bonfire.

The two most magnificent edifices that were destroyed by the insurgents—the Hotel de Ville and the Tuilleries—are in a fair way of restoration. It had at first been the intention to rebuild only the most ancient part of the former, without the magnificent wings added by Louis Philippe, but this plan was abandoned, and it is to be restored as it was previous to the insurrection. All of the bones of the main relief that adorned this magnificent structure have fortunately been found, and will be completely restored. The bronze statues were also discovered unharmed among the cinders, so that we may see the old city building in its former shape. The Tuilleries, however, are to be much reduced in size, as it would prove too expensive to restore the building to its original state. Nevertheless, the new structure will be very fine, and the plan is said to be tasteful and elegant. But an irreparable loss to Paris is the fearful devastation in the garden of the Tuilleries. During the siege, it was used as an artillery camp, and the bad usage it received as such was mournfully manifested by the Communists, who took only pleasure in ruining it altogether.

The Vendome pillar is undergoing a complete process of reconstruction. Its completion is, however, prevented by a singular fact. All the pieces have been found except those reliefs that represented the victories of Napoleon over Prussia in 1807. These are known to be in the hands of foreign parties, who ask exorbitant prices for the same. The same can be said of the Arch of Triumph. Only the sculpture of the splendid archway have been much injured by missiles, and M. Etex, their original maker, is at present engaged in restoring them. The Louvre, the palaces of the Ministries, the splendid palace of the Legion of Honor, and the Avenue de l'Imperatrice have been almost completely restored, but the other public buildings are still being demolished. A good sign for Paris is in the fact that a great many of the private buildings devastated by the fire were still found to have solid walls, so that only internal restoration has been found necessary, which will materially hasten the re-building of the city.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS.—The reports of the several departments were submitted to Congress, with the President's message, on Monday last.

Mr. Boutwell's report, as Secretary of the Treasury, covers the usual grounds, and discusses at length the various matters which come within his province. The customs revenue was, the report says, greatly in excess of the estimates, while there was a diminished cost of collection over last year. The total expenditures for the year were \$292,177,188.25, while the receipts from all sources for the same period were \$338,323,944.89. The Secretary still sticks to his pet scheme of paying off the national debt immediately. He says that we should pay off at least \$50,000,000 a year of the principal of the debt. The Secretary recommends the reduction of the duties on certain articles, especially salt, raw hides and coal. The Secretary strongly recommends the abolishment of the shares in moieties received by certain officers, such, for instance, as the collector of New York. Mr. Boutwell gives his version of the putting of the national loan upon the market, and his explanation of the decay of American commerce.

The Comptroller of the Currency reports to Mr. Boutwell that 145 national banks have been organized under the provisions of the Act of July 12, 1871, providing for the issue of \$54,000,000 additional bank circulation, a little more than a third of which sum has been issued to them. Mr. Hubbard calls the attention of Congress to the high rate of taxation imposed upon banks in the various States as a proper subject for remedial legislation.

The Postmaster-General's report is full of departmental statistics and recommendations of proposed reforms. Amongst his propositions are those of an additional mail to Brazil, the payment of subsidies to steamship lines, and the adoption of the governmental postal, telegraph and savings bank systems.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior deals at some length with Indian relations. Mr. Delano finally recommending that all the red skins in the country be collected into one monster reservation in the Indian Territory. The report also discusses at some length our railroads and the grants which they have received from Congress. The pension business is also adverted to, as is the work of the patent office, and the necessity for a simplification of the homestead and pre-emption laws.

CRUISING FOR NAPOLEON.—A Paris paper says the French Government has ordered vessels to be fitted out to cruise along the coast, and prevent the landing of Louis Napoleon. The Republic must be on its last legs, if the presence of the deposed Emperor would be dangerous to its existence.

A FATAL MISTAKE.—Mr. John Morgan, residing and doing business on the corner of Wroughton street and Lane, Whitaker street, Savannah, Ga., sadly came to his death, yesterday afternoon, from the effects of a dose of carbolic acid, taken by mistake.

An enterprising Texan knocked down a man, was arrested, got bail, shot two lawyers and left town, all in fifty-four minutes.

Local Items.

PHENIXIANA.—The price of single copies of the PHENIX is five cents.

The PHENIX office is supplied with all necessary material for as handsome cards, bill heads, posters, pamphlets, hand-bills, circulars, and other printing that may be desired, as any office in the South. Give us a call and test our work.

The thermometer ranged as follows at the Pollock House yesterday: 9 A. M., 57; 2 P. M., 56; 9 P. M., 47.

The "Carolina Dramatic Club" has been organized, and Mr. George Irwin elected President.

Dan Rice, with his celebrated Paris pavilion circus, will shortly appear in this city. Dan's reputation is world-wide, and his circus troupe considered the best that travels.

Dexter's time has been beaten in Columbia—but not by a horse. A thin friend was making tracks homeward on Friday night, when he was hailed by two suspicious looking individuals. Not liking the appearance of the hailers, he increased his movements somewhat. The call was repeated, and no attention being paid to it, the callers commenced moving rapidly forward, when our belated friend got up steam, and bolted for the Nicholson House (passing his own gate in the excitement of the moment.) Having obtained possession of a piece of artillery, he retraced his steps, but his would-be acquaintances had disappeared. Moral—Carry a good club, or some other weapon of defence.

We have received the December *Folio*, which maintains its position as the leading musical periodical. The illustration this month is of Camilla Urso, the celebrated lady violinist. The music is especially appropriate for the season, six of its nine pages comprising beautiful Christmas carols; and the instrumental piece is a charming composition, entitled "Say to him Waltz." The reading matter is up to its high standard, and it will commence its new volume with additional attractions, under the editorship of Mr. George Lowell Austin. Published by White, Smith & Perry, Boston, at \$1 a year.

The Templeton troupe closed a very successful engagement, last night. They have performed to good houses, and have given general satisfaction—which is saying a great deal. They open the new opera house in Enfauila, Ala., on Monday night next.

LOOK OUT FOR THE ORPHANS.—The thirty little Confederate orphans, who are to give their concert in Irwin's Hall, Monday night, will reach our city on the train from Winstboro, to-morrow, at 2 o'clock. They will move in procession to the Columbia Hotel, where the kind ladies, who are to entertain them during their stay, will receive them, and take them to their homes.

MAIL ARRANGEMENTS.—The Northern mail opens at 3.00 P. M.; closes 7.15 A. M. Charleston day mail opens 4.00 P. M.; closes 6.00 A. M. Charleston night mail opens 6.30 A. M.; closes 6.00 P. M. Greenville mail opens 6.45 P. M.; closes 6.00 A. M. Western mail opens 9.00 A. M.; closes 1.30 P. M. On Sunday office open from 3 to 4 P. M.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES THIS DAY.—Trinity Church—Rev. P. J. Shand, D. D., Rector, 11 A. M. and 4 P. M.

St. Peter's Church—Rev. Francis R. Jacquemet, 1st Mass, 7 A. M.; 2d Mass, 10½. Afternoon Service 4 P. M.

Lutheran Church—Rev. S. H. Wingard, 10½ A. M.

Presbyterian Church—Rev. Jos. R. Wilson, 10½ A. M. and 7 P. M.

Marion Street Church—Rev. W. W. Mood, 10½ A. M. Rev. W. T. Capers, 7 P. M.

Washington Street Church—Rev. Bishop Paine, D. D., 10½ A. M. Afternoon service, 3½ P. M.

Baptist Church—Rev. J. L. Reynolds, 10½ A. M.

A PLEASANT SHAVE.—As a general rule, the shaving process is not a pleasant one. As carried on, however, in Reese & Carroll's saloon, it is a delightful operation. We can commend this establishment.

THE COLUMBIA HOTEL.—We have reason to declare that the Columbia Hotel fully keeps up its reputation. The apartments are well furnished, the fare is excellent, and the attendance prompt and polite. We are satisfied that Mr. Gorman knows as well how "to keep a hotel" as any one we have lately met. He is a working man who deserves all the success he wins.

OFFICIAL RAFFLE NUMBERS Charleston Charitable Association, for benefit Free School fund, RAFFLE CLASS No. 233.—*Morning, December 9.*
50 33-36-1-63-31-17-23-10-7-5-60
Witness my hand at Charleston, this 9th day of December, 1871. FENN PECK, 3rd Com. Commissioner.

LIST OF NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.
D. C. Peixotto & Son—Auction Sales.
D. C. Peixotto & Son—Hay.
W. C. Bee & Co.—Fertilizers.
J. D. Aiken—Soluble Guano.
Gov. Scott—Proclamation.
Jacob Levin—Auction Sale.
John S. Green—Referee's Sale.
W. Y. Leitch & R. S. Bruns—Sale.
G. W. Davis—Briek for Sale.
C. E. Thomas & Co.—Wood.
John S. Green—Notice to Creditors.

Revenue Stamp! Revenue Stamp!
ALL DENOMINATIONS for sale at the usual discount, at the SOUTH CAROLINA BANK AND TRUST CO. Dec 7

Teas.
GUNPOWDER and English Breakfast TEAS—the best imported—for sale by E. HOPE. Dec 7

Just Received,
A CAR-LOAD OF FINE HORSES and MULES. Call at Logan's Stables and examine them. J. M. TAYLOR. Dec 7

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